

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 384 476

RC 020 183

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TITLE Walking Stars: Stories of Magic and Power.
SPONS AGENCY Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, New York, N.Y.; National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C.
REPORT NO ISBN-1-55885-118-6
PUB DATE 94
NOTE 202p.; Funding also provided by the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund.
AVAILABLE FROM Arte Publico Press, University of Houston, 4800 Calhoun, Houston, TX 77204-2090 (\$14.95).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Creative Works (Literature, Drama, Fine Arts) (030)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Adolescent Literature; Autobiographies; Early Experience; Family History; *Family Life; *Hispanic American Culture; Immigrants; *Individual Power; *Mexican Americans; *Mexicans; Reminiscence; Self Efficacy
IDENTIFIERS California; *Childhood Experiences; Mexico; Spirituality

ABSTRACT

This book contains memoirs about growing up as the son of Mexican immigrants in rural California, as well as stories that the author's parents told him about their childhoods and village life in Mexico. In a preface and introductory stories, the immigrant explains how his family culture sustained him during bad experiences in school, and describes how, as an adult, he rediscovered the truth of his parents' stories. Those tales of bravery and self-discovery are set against the backdrop of the Mexican Revolution and immigration to the United States. All involve young people overcoming physical, emotional, and psychological barriers during times of great stress. The children and adolescents in these stories discover truths about spirituality and magic, stand up to bullies on the first day of school, assist during childbirth, fight witches and the real-life oppressors of their village, and achieve great feats of skill and courage. The message is that young people have the power to create their own futures and can overcome all manner of adversity with the help of spirituality, imagination, and love of family. Includes notes on story background. (SV)

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